

LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Valley Life

page turner

bargains

Referral Library Loves to Help Couples Tying Knot

By GERRI COOK
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Just recently, the staff at Wedding Dreams Library was asked a question it had never heard before: "Where can I rent a little boy to be a ring bearer for my wedding? I really want one, and I have no one to ask." (Answer below.)

The free referral library has been in business for 12 years and has helped 17,000 couples fill service or product requests for their special day. Staff members thought they had heard them all, what with appeals for a wedding party of wild animals bedecked with floral wreaths, and for a

quite reasonable, with wedding gowns ranging from \$500 to \$700 and bridesmaids' dresses \$120 to \$220. Last-minute steaming of gowns and dresses—for which many salons charge \$50 to \$65—is another free service.

As for the ring bearer, Annenberg claims it is poor etiquette to have anyone in the wedding party who is not a friend or relative of the bride or groom, so this was one request not filled.

Wedding Dreams, 20999 Trestles Blvd., Woodland Hills, Library (818) 587-3440. Store (818) 587-3442.

Weekend Special: Through March 13, there are some specials at Woodland Hills Camera that will cut the regular prices by a good measure. Compact Olympus cameras are down to \$199 from \$299, and \$230 instead of \$310. You can cover that upcoming wedding with a new Canon video camera with a new color viewfinder and stabilizer for \$399.95, not the usual \$499. 5340 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills, (818) 347-2220.

Also, Edward Weston Fine Art Galleries—publishers, distributors and collectors for more than 40 years—have lost their lease and are liquidating thousands of works of art, including many limited edition lithographs, at 50% to 90% off. Peascoe, Chapell, Miro, Dalí, Peter Max—too many to list, many of which are framed. To ensure a complete liquidation before Weston becomes a private art dealer, auctions are being scheduled for today, Saturday and Sunday and March 12, 13 and 14. 19355 Business Center Drive, Northridge, (818) 383-1044.

Books and Music. 14025 Magnolia Blvd., Sherman Oaks, presents lively recording artist **Don Henley** for two shows Sunday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. \$10 cover. Singer-songwriter **Ben** is noted for his caustic humor. Indie music's Ani DiFranco produced his second CD, released last year. Also, singer-songwriter **Bonnie Lewis** performs tonight, 9 p.m. (818) 986-6400.

Northridge's Borders Books & Music, 9001 Tanya Ave., presents jazz guitarist **Jeff Richman** tonight at 8, and the **Gurus** play selections from their CD, "Ritual Dance," Saturday at 8 p.m. (818) 886-5443.

The Fiction Readers Group at Burbank's **Barnes & Noble**, 731 N. San Fernando Blvd., will discuss Linda LaPlante's "Cordell's

Mandel at its March meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. (818) 554-1383.

J.B. Sart will discuss "Always Kiss Me Goodnight: Instructions on Raising the Perfect Parent by 147 Kids Who Know" Wednesday, 4:30 p.m., at Northridge's **Borders Books & Music**, 9301 Tanya Ave. The book-signing and discussion will be followed by a teacher appreciation reception. (818) 886-5443.

Literary agent **Pat Quinn** of Metropolitan Talent Agency will speak to the **Screenwriters Group** at Burbank's **Barnes & Noble**, 731 N. San Fernando Blvd., Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Quinn will give marketing tips for aspiring screenwriters. (818) 554-1383.

Author **John Bar** will sign and discuss his

memoir, "Witness for a Generation," Thursday, 7:30 p.m., at **Reno's Barnes & Noble** at 16461 Ventura Blvd. In his book, Bar recounts the rise of the Nazis in Germany and details his personal escape to South America and California. (818) 380-1608.

Donna Seibel brings his one-man show, "A Visit With Norman Rockwell," to the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library**, 40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, Thursday at 7 p.m. Presented in conjunction with the museum's "Norman Rockwell Paints the Presidents and the America They Governed" exhibition. Free with museum admission. (800) 410-8354. \$3-\$5.

—JAMES E. FOWLER

SPOTLIGHT: Life's Too Short to Deny Delight

Continued from B1

And Saks has another vice that she describes as "infinitely delicious."

"I will grab one or two people and just get out to Vegas for like 36 hours and go gamble (another throaty laugh), see a bunch of shows and stay up all night."

When Scott Smith is queried about his guilty pleasures, he says, "I have several. Which one do you want to hear first?" Actually, Smith, an actor and writer who lives in Van Nuys, has just two.

One is a taste for Krispy Kreme doughnuts, acquired when he was growing up in Virginia. Smith's play about suburban rivalry, "King of the Moon," recently had a run in New York City and, while there, he reports, with a palpable shudder of delight, "I had a Krispy Kreme every morning."

As any teenager can tell you, guilty pleasures tend to be solitary vices.

Smith chose not to tell his wife, Elizabeth Sampson, about the daily Krispy Kreme, and

she is mystified by his other penchant—he likes to hang out at the Westside's Petersen Automotive Museum.

"How many hours can you spend staring at a car?" she asks.

He answers: "They're open from 10 to 6, so they've already figured it out."

Approached at a Northridge bookstore, Teresa Foote admits to multiple passions. Put those down, says Foote, a resident of Woodland Hills, Swanton, son. "The rest of the clothes I don't care about."

Foote says she can't stay away from bookstores.

And she cruises the Internet—especially the electronic auction house eBay—looking for vintage straw spoons. Those, she explains, are long spoons, popular in the 1920s and '30s, with hollow handles through which you sucked your maleds.

Chairs are another of Foote's vices. The middle equivalent of ditching school may flood my brain with feel-good euphoria,

but that doesn't mean it will work for you. Guilty pleasures are an individual as fingerprints. I've had some good chairs in my time, but clearly they do something for Foote that I can only dream of.

Recently, Foote bought "a kind of graceful, dark, American Hepplewhite chair," with some nice carving but not a stitch of fabric. She can't wait to upholster it herself.

"Why would you buy that?" her husband, Bob, wonders, not unkindly. Failing for a certain pretty chair, she explains, involves "a passion in your heart."

Foote's got that right. As to your own guilty pleasures, my advice is Give in.

Savor the key Snickers bar, preferably in a steaming, scented bath, lit by candlelight, while listening to Billie Holiday (you need not do this alone).

Life is short. And you know I'll never tell.

QUARTET

Continued from B6

cultural fabric of life on Victoria and in the rest of Canada.

"More and more," Stanis said, "we're getting [well-known] guest artists on our island, because people are getting revved up about raising money. I feel really excited, too, because Victoria has taken us on as their own. We're their quartet."

Next year, the group will mount the ambitious Beethoven cycle of quartets, to be performed in its adopted hometown and other Canadian cities.

"It's a milestone, a rite of passage," Stanis said.

For now, the quartet continues its slow, steady course as a firmly established member in the growing ranks of active string quartets.

It requires the wearing of many hats.

"We have the teaching hats on, we have the performing hats on, the rehearsal hats, the administrative hats," Stanis said. "Then there are the wife hats and the mother hats. There's a good mix there."

BE THERE

Lafayette String Quartet, at the Performing Arts Center, CSUN, 1811 Northhoff St., in Northridge, Monday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22. (888) 315-7888.

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Northridge Toyota has announced plans to have a \$68 Dollar Used Car & Smash-It Sales Event** the Saturday, March 6, 1999. Dan Ryan, President of Caliber Automotive Leasing, says, "This sale is necessary due to the fact that during recent years, new vehicle leasing has exploded. This explosion has resulted in a record number of low mileage lease returns that the dealership must sell. In fact," Dan continued, "when combined with robust fourth quarter retail sales has resulted in a greatly expanded used car, truck, van and sports utility inventory." During this \$68 Dollar Used Car & Smash-It Sales Event** most used cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles will be sold for thousands of dollars below their original price.

All cars will be on display in the secured and tented area at Northridge Toyota, 19550 Northhoff St., Northridge, CA. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, all vehicles will be opened so that buyers may inspect the vehicles for one hour. On the weekend of each vehicle will be its normal retail selling price. The dealership will have the first right to purchase the car at the slashed price. Private will be slashed one time and one time only to the rock bottom price, including used cars for only \$88! We will continue to slash all vehicle prices until 3pm. The sale will be concluded at 3pm and the store will be back to "business as usual."

This sale is one day only - rain or shine - on Saturday, March 6, 9am-3pm.

Further, Dan Ryan states, "That if you've had credit problems in the past and would like to take delivery, then bring the following: check book, paycheck stub, title, utility bill. Don't forget to call your bank and know what the payoff balance is of your trade in. Any questions can be directed to (818) 734-5600 at NORTHDRIDGE TOYOTA. Ask for "Smash-It" (Phoned)

NORTHDRIDGE TOYOTA
19550 NORTHHOFF ST.
NORTHDRIDGE, CA 91324
(818) 734-5600

*Price does not include tax, license, title and other fees. Monthly fee is \$88 or more plus all tax and title and other fees. All trade-in vehicles will be at \$88 price including fees. **Caliber Automotive Leasing is a 100% Toyota lease program. Vehicles subject to prior sale. If used vehicles are not available, comparable 1998 models will be used instead.

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